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Inventors: Cheung et al.
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The following listing of claims shall replace all previous versions:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of screening for lead compounds which inhibit the expression of *sarA* in *Staphylococcus* comprising:

obtaining one or more Staphylococcal accessory regulatory R (SarR) analogs of a SarR protein having an amino acid sequence comprising ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ SEQ ID NO:2;

contacting said one or more analogs of SarR with a Staphylococcal accessory regulatory A (SarA) protein; and

determining whether said one or more analogs form a heterodimer with the SarA protein wherein the formation of a heterodimer is indicative of a lead compound which inhibits the expression of *sarA* in *Staphylococcus*.

Claim 29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated and purified lead compound identified by the screening method of claim 28, wherein said lead compound is a SarR protein from *Staphylococcus aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *S. haemolyticus*, or *S. saprophyticus* which inhibits the expression of *sarA*.

Claim 31 (canceled).